

Big 12 Notebook

Ricky Williams rushed for 466 yards on 77 carries Saturday. Those were not new NCAA records. It took two Williamses from the Big 12 Conference to set those marks.

Ricky Williams from Texas, also this week's Big 12 offensive player of the week, rushed for 215 yards on 36 carries with six touchdowns to set a new Texas record.

Texas Tech's Ricky Williams was not to be outdone by his namesake. He rushed for 251 yards on 41 carries with two touchdowns.

"I don't feel like I'm in his shadow," Tech's Williams said. "(Texas' Williams) plays and runs hard, but so do I, and I'm here to help Texas Tech win."

Texas' Ricky Williams will lead the Longhorns into battle against UCLA on Saturday in a battle of two Heisman Trophy candidates. Williams, an early Heisman favorite, will face UCLA quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Cade McNown.

"Ricky has handled the Heisman hype really well," UT Coach Mack Brown said. "He and Cade are probably really excited to go and play the game."

Oklahoma State linebacker Troy West was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week for his role in the Cowboys' 38-28 victory over Kansas.

West had two interceptions, one returned for a touchdown and the other set up their final score. His three tackles on the day also were for losses.

Colorado punt returner Cedric Cormier's 130 yards on four returns led him to be named the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week. One return was returned 82 yards for a touchdown that helped Colorado to a 42-14 win over Colorado State.

The state of Iowa will have an intrastate battle Saturday when Iowa State faces Iowa. The Cyclones last victory over the Hawkeyes was a 19-7 win in 1982.

Still, Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney is looking forward to this weekend's game.

"I think it is great for the state of Iowa," McCarney said. "Turning tradition around is getting kids to believe they can and will win."

If Saturday's 37-0 victory over Bowling Green was any indication, the Missouri Tigers will have one of the most balanced offenses in the nation this year. Mizzou rushed for 340 yards and passed for 204 in their victory.

It was the first time the Tigers rushed for more than 300 yards and passed for more than 200 yards in the same game in Coach Larry Smith's six years at Missouri.

Compiled by staff writer James Nicas



SENIOR MIDFIELDER KRISTEN GAY is a leader on the NU soccer team this year after spending her first three seasons as a role player in the shadow of Kari Uppinghouse. The captain has started 54 straight games, leading all current Huskers. MATT MILLER/DN

Husker reaches out to youths

BY DARREN IVY
Staff writer

After a long day of practice in the hot sun, most soccer players would be ready to call it a day and go home.

Not Kristen Gay. The senior midfielder's days are just beginning.

"We'll all be driving to come home and see her car at an under-11 game," Assistant Coach Megan Bechtold said. "We're tired and exhausted, but she will still stop. That just makes the (kids') day.

"I'm not even sure if she realizes what a positive role model she's been."

Friday's game at the Abbot Sports Complex was an indication of what an impact Gay has made in the young girls' lives. As Gay ran out of the locker room and onto the field, she was greeted with a big sign that said "Go Cricket" while tons of little girls yelled and screamed for her.

Ten-year-old Holly Remmenga was one of them.

"She helps me so much; I feel like I owe it to her," Remmenga said.

Remmenga and Gay met two years

ago while Remmenga was playing on a recreational team. Since then, Gay has coached two of her teams and worked individually with her, said Remmenga's mom, Cindy.

"Now she is on a select team," Cindy Remmenga said. "Cricket and (NU senior soccer player Becky) Hogan are the reason."

Gay also has gone out of her way to make it to Remmenga's personal activities.

"She was going to come to my birthday party, but she couldn't make it," Holly Remmenga said. "So she took me

out to ice cream another time. I love her. She's like a big sister."

Remmenga is just one girl Gay has become a big sister to since coming to Nebraska in 1995.

Bechtold said Gay met many of the girls through NU soccer camps. At those camps, Gay is one of the most popular counselors, Bechtold said.

"We have teams ask to have her," Bechtold said. "The kids at camps just fall in love with her personality. They

Please see **KRICKET** on 11

Newcombe prepared for first road-game test

BY DAVID WILSON
Senior staff writer

The last time a first-year Nebraska starting quarterback played his first game on the road, the result was the Cornhuskers' only regular-season loss in the last seven years.

Bobby Newcombe expects his first road start under center to be a little different.

Win or lose, the first road game of the season has proven to be a learning experience for the Huskers in each of the last two seasons.

In 1996, under the direction of first-year quarterback Scott Frost, Nebraska fell 19-0 to Arizona State in Tempe, Ariz. The Huskers won their next nine games before losing to Texas in the Big 12 Championship, but many fans were slow to forgive Frost for NU's first two-loss season since 1992.

Nebraska Coach Frank Solich has brought up the loss in Tempe more than once this season.

"We went to Arizona State and did

not play really well on the road," Solich said at Tuesday's weekly press conference. "I certainly did not want that to happen again this year in terms of where we're at experience-wise in the offensive line and the quarterback spot."

That's why the Huskers added a matchup with Louisiana Tech in the Kickoff Classic Aug. 29, Solich said. He said he hopes the experience of two home games will be enough to help a relatively inexperienced team win on the road.

"If you think about it," Solich said, "Nebraska - really the last three or four years - had played tremendously well. Then, all of a sudden, we lose - really a devastating loss. It was just kind of a heartbreaking moment for the players and staff."

With a year of experience under his belt last season, Frost put much speculation aside when he led the Huskers to a win in their first road game against Washington in Seattle.

Newcombe watched from the sidelines in Seattle - an experience he said will help him Saturday when Nebraska travels to California for its first road game of the season.

"Last year when we went to Washington, that was one of the loudest games I've ever played in," Newcombe

"The game down in Texas against A&M - that was a very loud game. That's definitely going to help me this week."

BOBBY NEWCOMBE
quarterback

said. "We played in the Orange Bowl and the game down in Texas against A&M - that was a very loud game. That's definitely going to help me this week."

Newcombe played as the third-string quarterback in NU's first two games last season, then moved to wingback after the Washington game. After winning the starting quarterback slot last spring, Newcombe started the Huskers' first game this season before sitting out last week with a knee injury.

But Newcombe, who now is wearing a knee brace in practice, said he will be near full strength this Saturday and expects to start.

Nebraska senior fullback Joel Makovicka is confident Newcombe will be ready.

"Bobby has looked real good in practice," Makovicka said.

The Huskers will practice on the grass through Wednesday in preparation for the Bears' 74,909-capacity Memorial Stadium. Solich said NU also will simulate crowd noise in practice.

"Anytime you get your first game on the road, it's a new experience," Makovicka said. "Maybe it's an experience some of the guys haven't come in contact with. We're going to have to be ready to play if we're going to win the ball game."

And, like last season, Makovicka said the Huskers have something to prove.

"I think there's a lot of similarities, about people questioning how good of a football team we are," Makovicka said. "We just want to go out and take it one game at a time and play well."

Please see **ROAD** on 11